

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A method for treating resin coated decorative papers, wherein a solution of one or more alkaline metal salts delaying hardening of the resin is applied, during printing with metal effect inks.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt solution is a sodium aluminate solution in water or in a water/extender mixture.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein sodium aluminate is dissolved in  $> 60^{\circ}\text{C}$  hot water, in order to produce the mixture.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the water is demineralized water.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and has a proportion of 0.5 up to maximum 5 weight-% related to the solution.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and wherein a sodium aluminate solution having a pH-value between pH 9 and 14 is used.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and is applied in the ready solution onto the paper by means of a subcoat cylinder and gravure printing.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein an orientation value or a target value of minimum 3 g/m<sup>2</sup> up to maximum 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> wet is observed.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and wherein for effect inks, namely, pearl, silver, and irisation inks, ~~in higher concentrations on the respective printed decorative papers;~~ a sodium aluminate solution in water or in a water/extender mixture is applied onto the surface of the metallic prints by means of gravure printing with a subcoat cylinder.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate is dissolved in > 60 °C hot water, in order to produce the mixture.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The mixture produced by the method of ~~according to~~ claim 25, wherein the water is demineralized water.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate has a solid contents of 0.5 up to maximum 5 % related to the solution.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein a sodium aluminate solution having a pH-value between pH 9 and pH 14 is used.

Application No. 10/512,036

Art Unit 1762

AMENDMENT

Page 4

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate in the ready solution is applied onto the paper by means of a subcoat cylinder and gravure printing.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 29, wherein an orientation value or a target value of minimum 3 g/m<sup>2</sup> up to maximum 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> wet is observed.

Claim 31 (Cancelled).

Claim 32 (Cancelled).

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt solution is applied in a gravure printing method by a subcoat cylinder.